

8th U.S. Army's

ROK Steady

June 2005

CHIPYONG-NI

Birth of a Division
Battle of Chipyong-ni
Seoul in the Past
New ROK CSM
US & ROK Tour
KATUSA Week

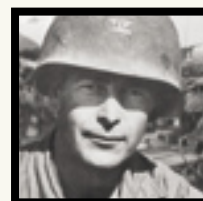
KOREAN WAR HIGH WATER MARK

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ROK Steady Cover: Designed by Maj. Scott Slaten
Composite photo showing Sgt. Delbert C. Large, E Company, 9th Infantry, 2ID and the relief force of tanks from Task Force Crombez taken by Pfc. Otto Schmalz, 23rd RCT, 2ID, Battle of Chipyeong-ni.

See ROK Steady online at <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/PAO/Default.htm>

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Spc. Daniel Love

Staff Sgt. Ken Jurish, a 557th MP Company dog handler, takes a break between events with his dog Ares during the Peninsula-Wide Military Working Dog Competition at Osan Air Base. Juresh and Ares took second place in the explosives detection portion of the competition.

Reflections on the past - Way ahead for the future

Listen Up!

By Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

Some things change...

Our presence in the Republic of Korea will be reduced from approximately 28,500 to 17,500 Soldiers between 2004 and 2008. This equates to nearly a 40 percent reduction and is clearly a significant change.

The positive aspects of this change are many. We'll reduce our footprint on the Peninsula and consolidate our operations. We'll also be less imposing on our Korean neighbors as we sustain an alliance that remains the strongest in the world.

As we move ahead with our transformation, we'll begin to increase in the number of accompanied assignments. This means as we plan for the future, our focus on taking care of families will demand more attention.

I am proud of the great work being accomplished throughout the 8th U.S. Army as we face these changes. We're adopting the Army's new modular structure. We're moving and restructuring units. We're adapting to new conditions and as we do, we're moving from one model of success to another.

Some things don't change...

The study and awareness of history teaches us valuable lessons and links us to the purpose of our presence in the Republic of Korea today. The articles and photographs in this issue of the ROK Steady make that clear.

The battle at Chipyeong-ni during the Korean War is a tale of a battlefield victory that led to the Armistice conditions under which we serve today. Despite overwhelming odds and sickening casualties, 8th Army's victory during Chipyeong-ni allowed us to regain the initiative and from that battle forward the 8th U.S. Army would never fall again.

The special photographs in this issue depict the transformation of the Republic of Korea since the end of the Korean War. Photographs over 50 years old were re-taken on the same locations to show the dramatic change that has occurred. They say a picture paints a thousand words. Well, these pictures speak volumes.

I challenge you all to remain focused on our mission to deter aggression and if deterrence fails, to be ready to fight tonight and win. I also encourage you to recognize and respect the accomplishments of our alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. Serving side-by-side has taught us many lessons. Our enduring commitment is a testament of what we have accomplished and assures a secure future for us all.

Katchi Kapshida – We'll go together!

Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell talks with Soldiers in the field about their service in Korea.



New CSM welcomed to 8th Army command

By Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Wheeler
Command Sergeant Major, 8th U.S.

It is with the greatest of excitement that I write my initial article for the ROK Steady magazine. It's quite an honor to be selected to serve as the UNC/CFC/USFK/8th U.S. Army CSM. I say it's an honor because of the great privilege I have of serving with so many outstanding troops from all services serving Peninsula wide. I'd be remiss if I didn't take advantage of this opportunity to thank everyone for the very warm welcome Pat and I have received as we've transitioned in. Overwhelming to say the least! I'd also like to publicly thank CSM Troy Welch and his wife Deb for being such great sponsors and wish them luck as they begin their obligations as the Army G4 enlisted team.

Now, for a little about me and what makes me tick. I dislike leaders who feel like just because they have more rank, they are owed something from their subordinates. In other words, too often noncommissioned officers forget their service gives them those extra stripes, not for more entitlements and benefits, but in order to help take care of more people. The leader exists for the subordinate, not the other way around. No one who has achieved any modicum of success within their respective service achieved it by responding to fear or threats. Our great servicemembers are no different. They came in to be successful and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Job satisfaction comes in many forms for different people. Personally, I derive mine from being out and about visiting troops. I enjoy talking to our servicemembers and hearing about their issues. I'm often amazed at what a leader can learn from just listening! The key to this is being an approachable and caring person, one that troops feel comfortable with and who, when they walk away, know the issue will be resolved. I like to think I'm that type of leader. If you see me, feel free to approach me about anything that might be on your mind. This method of gathering feedback is one of the most valuable a leader can use. "Leadership by walking around" for lack of a better description.

I have a passion for individual training and its proper resourcing, preparation and execution. I'd offer to our NCOs that those leaders who are most successful, focus on the basics. That they focus down on their troops and not up on the things they can't control. They worry about whether their troop can hit

what they aim at, don their protective mask in 15 seconds or less, and not on what their superiors might be doing or what bill Congress may or may not pass next. With well prepared individual training, our servicemembers will be better capable of surviving when called upon to do so. Want to get better at individual training? The key that unlocks it and ensures success is this: REPETITIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE TASK! In other words, one does well what they practice repetitively. Narrow your focus on those most critical individual tasks that supports your unit's METL and train them over and over!

Lastly, I'd like to encourage all of our great servicemembers to make their tours here in the Land of the Morning Calm productive ones. Don't count the days – make the days count! Improve your civilian education, improve your physical fitness, improve your tactical craft, and go back after your tour is complete knowing you have put the time to its best use. You'll be glad you did!

Once again, thank you for the honor of serving with each of you here in Korea. No higher privilege exists for any leader. I'm extremely proud to be here and look forward to meeting every one of you during my travels around the Peninsula. Stay cognizant of the special dangers the summer months bring and make this summer the safest one on record!



Wheeler



Spc. Daniel Love

Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Wheeler accepts the 8th U.S. Army Colors during a change of responsibility ceremony May 6 at Yongsan Army Garrison. Wheeler is beginning his third tour in Korea.



Birth of a Division

Article and photos
by Maj. Scott Slaten

The Battle of Belleau Wood - June 1918

Eighty-seven years ago this month, Devil Dogs and Doughboys laid in the hot June sun waiting for the gray clad Soldiers of the Imperial German Army.

During the last few days of May, a major German offensive had begun through the region of the Chemin des Dames and pushed rapidly to the Marne River; Paris was threatened and a German victory appeared inevitable.

Battle weary French units had been pounded mercilessly and were falling back. The Allies looked to the Americans and wondered if they would stand and fight.

With Paris only 25 kilometers away, the units of the 2nd Division moved into position near the town of Chateau-Thierry, seeing the 9th Infantry, French General Degoutte asked, *"Can the Americans really hold?"* An American officer replied, *"General, these are American regulars. In a hundred and fifty years, they have never been beaten. They will hold."* Hold they did, but at a terrible price.

Situated just north of Chateau-Thierry was a small mile-wide densely packed wood, known in French as the Bois de Belleau. A favorite hunting area for the local nobility, it would prove to be a much tougher objective to conquer than the Americans first imagined.

Beginning June 1, the Americans dug in and engaged the Germans with heavy losses. The German High Command, upon receiving intelligence they were facing Americans for the first time, directed that the 2nd Division be denied any success and have as much damage

inflicted upon them as possible.

By June 4, the German advance was blunted and the battle lines settled as the enemy improved their defenses in the wood.

On the morning of the sixth, the 4th Marine Brigade, 2ID attacked across open wheat fields; securing a toe hold. Continuing to assault, the 7th infantry, 3rd Division and the 2nd Division engineers assisted.

The battle raged for two more days until the wood was abandoned to clear the way for a massive artillery bombardment. Attacking again on June 10, the Americans regained what they had lost but then stalled.

Lt. Cooke, 55th Company, USMC, wrote, "Through the mist the forest loomed up as a grim shadow. We entered a deep indentation of the woods and shadows suddenly were split apart by chattering, stabbing flames. A crackling sheath of machine-gun bullets encased our battalion, doing in on us fiercely." Later crawling over to another officer from the 51st Company he asked, Where's your outfit" and got a shocking answer, *"The machine-guns got'em. As far as I know I'm the only one left out of ten officers and 250 men."*

For the remainder of June, the division fought hard, often times engaging in hand-to-hand combat. A continuous din of artillery, machine-guns and screams of men permeated the wood.

It wasn't until the July 2, the Americans firmly held the wood and pushed the Germans back. Although over 8,100 Americans were killed or wounded during the battle, it was

proclaimed a major victory and boosted the morale of the French people.

The 2nd Division would carry the reputation of a hard fighting unit for the remainder of the war. They were later in the bloody battles of St. Michel and the Meuse Argonne.

Today, at the Aisne-Marne Cemetery, Americans lie under white crosses near where they fell. The wood is still a dark and gloomy place, pocked-marked with shell holes. The scars of the battle have lasted 87 years and when you pause deep in the wood and listen out of respect for the slain, the birds still refuse to sing.

For more information about the Battle of Belleau Wood, see your local library or visit the web at www.worldwar1.com

Description of Photos

1. Photo and medals of Sgt. Thomas Roberts Reath, 5th Regiment, United States Marine Corps killed in action on Belleau Wood. Awarded the DSC, Silver Star and the Navy Cross for his actions during the battle. (George Gaadt Collection).
2. Aisne-Marne U.S. Cemetery at Belleau Wood.
3. The remains of the hunting lodge at Belleau Wood; scene of bitter fighting between elements of the 2nd Division and the Imperial German Army.
4. Captured Imperial German artillery piece showing the effects of the battle.
5. Shell holes from the battle are still visible throughout the woods.
6. The famed dogs head fountain adopted by the Marines in the village of Belleau. The fountain is part of a Chateau that was destroyed during the battle. Soldiers took refuge from artillery fire next to the fountain and quenched their thirst. Marines from around the world come annually to the dogs head fountain and sip from the cool, clear, water which is rumored to add an extra five years to a marines life.
7. Uniform worn by Oscar Ludwig Fenderick, 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment, 2ID. Each unit in the 2ID had a specific color and shape to the background of the *Indian Head* patch to designate the battalion and regiment. (George Gaadt Collection)

2ND



DIV



The Battle of Chipyeong-ni



Painting by artist James Dietz entitled "First Victory", showing the ferocity of the fighting around the critical road intersection of Chipyeong-ni. Courtesy of Mr. Dietz.

"Newsmen have classed the siege of Chipyeong-ni with Custer's Last Stand, the Battle of Bunker Hill and the siege of Fort Sumner. However, unlike the three defensive battles mentioned above, the siege of Chipyeong-ni ended in a brilliant victory."

Lt. Col. James E. Edwards
Commander, 2nd Battalion,
23rd Regt. Combat Team



Col. Paul Freeman, Commander
23rd RCT at Chipyeong-ni

KOREAN WAR HIGH WATER MARK

*By Major Scott A. Slaten
8th Army Public Affairs*

Only eight months had passed since 90,000 Soldiers of the North Korean Army had crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of South Korea.

It was a desperate time for both the 8th U.S. Army and United Nations Forces, as they were pushed almost into the sea. After counter-attacking from the Pusan Perimeter and driving the North Koreans to the Yalu River, the Chinese entered the war using human-wave tactics and the 8th U.S. Army found itself once again withdrawing south to a ragged defensive line near Wonju.

At home, news from the Korean War was sparse. After four long years of bloody conflict during World War II, interest in another overseas war was limited. Most

Americans went about their normal business and prepared to share Valentine's Day with their loved ones. Thousands of miles to the east, the Soldiers of G Company were struggling to cut through the frozen mud of the Korean countryside hoping their positions would be completed before dark.

Pfc. Otto E. Schmalz was one of those Soldiers digging into the side of a hill overlooking the southern approach to the town of Chipyeong-ni. A 29 year-old private assigned to 1st Platoon of G Company, 23rd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 2nd Infantry Division, Schmalz was a relative newcomer to Korea but no stranger to combat.

During World War II, Schmalz joined the Army as a medic and was attached to the 4th Infantry Division during the invasion of Normandy. Landing with the 31st Medical Company, he received a slight wound at Utah Beach. Fluent in German, he was often called upon to use his translation skills to interrogate German prisoners. After fighting through France, he was attached to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and spent the rest of the war taking care of combat casualties. After the final surrender of the German Army, his unit was earmarked to support

the 8th U.S. Army during the invasion of the Japanese home islands.

The formal surrender of Japan was announced while his unit was moving through the United States on their way to the Pacific. Schmalz's discharge was quickly approved, and he returned to a normal life in St. Paul, Minnesota where he resumed his pre-war job as a meat cutter. Several months later, he enlisted in the Army Reserves and was quietly working when his unit was mobilized for service in Korea.

"They didn't need medics in Korea, but due to high casualties, they were looking for riflemen." Schmalz stated in a interview from his home. *"I got off the ship in Pusan and rode shotgun on a train loaded with Turks until we reached Taegu. At the station, I was met by the first sergeant of Company G, 23rd RCT from the 2nd Infantry Division."* The first sergeant was a veteran of the fighting up and down the Korean Peninsula and was looking for some good men. At 6 feet, 4 inches, Schmalz was lean and in good shape, *"The first sergeant picked me out of the group and told me to get on the truck... that was the first and last time I saw him during the war."*

A month and a half later, Schmalz was still getting used to the men in his platoon. *"I was five years older than most of the men in my unit and one of the only combat veterans from World War II. Believe it or not, I often had a hard time keeping up with the young guys in their teens when we were climbing over the endless ridge lines in Korea. Many of the Korean veterans who had been fighting from the beginning, were pretty depressed and trudged on as best they could. We used to walk high up in the mountains on little dirt roads and sometimes we had Koreans assist us in carrying ammunition and supplies. The elements were extremely harsh. The nights were long and it often got down to 20 or 30 degrees below zero. Every now and then, we would kill a cow and butcher it in the field. I used to carry some meat with me in my mess tin, and when I got a chance, would fry it up."*

After the Battle of Twin Tunnels, the 23rd RCT moved north to the main road intersection at Chipyeong-ni.

Although the town was surrounded by dominating terrain, Col. Paul Freeman Jr., commander of the 23rd RCT, realized his force of 5,000 men wasn't large enough to occupy a defensive perimeter in the hills. Instead, he pulled his companies into a tight perimeter around the town and the critical road intersection.

The G Company commander was on R&R and the unit was being led by Lt. Thomas Heath, a capable leader and decorated 82nd Airborne Division combat veteran during World War II. The Company was down to almost 50 percent of what it should have been with no relief in the near future. Replacements had been trickling in since Christmas but couldn't compensate for the loss of the senior NCOs and battle tested troops who had been killed or wounded during the past months.

Schmalz remembered some of the men who came in with him as replacements, *“Some of the guys we got were from the deep South and couldn't read or write. Many of them were rejects from rear based*

units and had been transferred up into the line to get rid of them. We quickly learned who the dummies were. These guys were the ones who would get you killed. They talked at night in their holes, smoked when they shouldn't and wouldn't dig their positions deep enough.”

Out on the main line of defense, 1st Platoon was anchored on Highway 24A, one of the main roads moving into the area from the South. The platoon was situated on a small elevation in the line later named after the platoon sergeant (Schmidt Hill). The French Battalion was on their right and 3rd Platoon to their left in the area known as McGee Hill. 2nd Platoon was down from the next

high point known as Curtis Hill and extended out into the flat rice paddies tied in with Fox Company.

Lt. Col. James E. Edwards, 2nd Battalion commander, was responsible for the defense of the southern side of the perimeter. His battalion was tied in with the French Battalion on the right (West) and the 3rd Battalion on the left (East). Arrayed along a low range of hills, the unit was stretched out with Company E on the left, Company G on the right and the smallest unit, Company F, with two platoons forward and one held back as a reserve.

Once the units arrived in position, they took the next ten days to prepare the defense. Col. Freeman

worked closely with his battalion commanders to ensure the unit was ready. His extensive World War II experience helped.

Drawing on what he had learned fighting the Japanese, his 23rd RCT set up a 360 degree defense with interlocking fields of fire, plotted and registered artillery targets, planned illumination missions and requested close air support and aerial resupply.

As the days passed, patrols and aerial reconnaissance painted a grim picture. The intelligence officer on the regimental staff began to track elements of six Chinese divisions numbering over 60,000 troops. As the reports came in from patrols the map quickly filled with red icons. Three divisions from the 40th and two divisions from the 42nd Chinese Field Armies were listed as they maneuvered to cut off and destroy the mixed force of 5,000 American and French at Chipyeong-ni.

Realizing the trap was quickly closing to the South, Col. Freeman contacted the 2ID commander, Maj. Gen. Clark L. Ruffner, and requested to withdraw 15 miles to the South near the town of Yoju, in order to tie in his flanks with the other regiments from the division.

Maj. Gen. Ruffner understood the seriousness of the situation facing the 23rd RCT and forwarded the request to Lt. Gen. Edward (Ned) M. Almond, 10th Corps commander.

On Feb. 13, Lt. Gen. Almond flew into the perimeter by

helicopter and discussed the issue with Freeman. He requested to move south the next day to a more secure line. Gen. Almond forwarded the request to the new commander of the 8th U.S. Army, Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway. He had assumed command of the 8th U.S. Army after Lt. Gen. “Bulldog” H. Walker was killed in a road accident. Ridgway was new to Korea but not in the art of war, having fought through World War II, leading airborne forces in the European Theater of Operations.

Gen. Ridgway assessed the situation and decided it was time to make a stand before switching to the offensive. The communists had pushed down to the central region of Korea and their supply lines were now over extended. As a result, Ridgway refused to give up the critical road intersection at Chipyeong-ni and decided the 23rd would have to stand and secure the area.

The answer quickly reached the 23rd RCT switchboard at the headquarters in Chipyeong-ni. Col. Freeman immediately called his battalion commander's together to inform them of the decision. Realizing the road to the south was being closed by the Chinese as he spoke, he pointed to the map and said, *“We will stay here and fight it out.”*

Totally oblivious to the decisions and events ongoing that would later determine their fate, Pfc. Schmalz and his buddy Nick Palacero were busy hacking away at the frozen

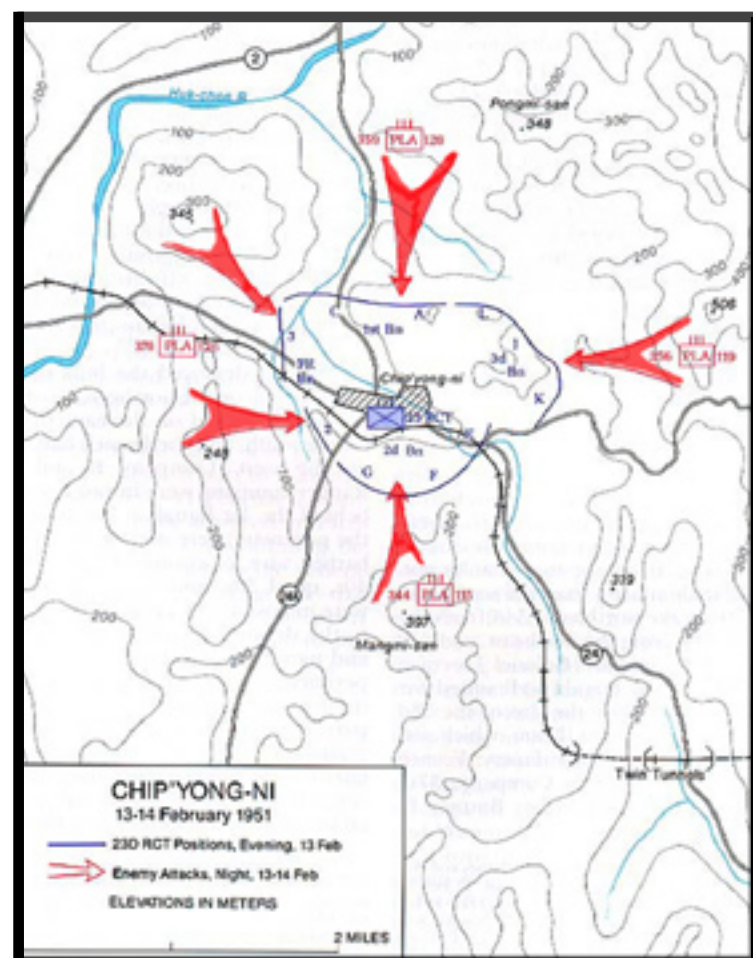


Gen. Paul J. Freeman Jr.
Commander of the 23rd

General Paul Freeman was born in the Philippines and graduated from West Point in 1929. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry. He later served in China with the 15th Infantry Regiment (1933-36), then returned to China for three years as a language student and intelligence officer.

Soon after World War II began, he became General Joseph Stilwell's G-4 (Logistics) and later organized the commando team known as Merrill's Marauders. In mid-1943, Freeman became a member of the Army War Plans Division and in late 1944 he was appointed chief of staff of the 77th Division (8th Army). He later served as G-3 (Operations and Training) of the 6th Army and I Corps.

During the Korean War, he commanded the 23rd Infantry with singular distinction. After the war, his assignments included commander, 2nd Infantry Division, deputy chief, U.S. Army Europe and commanding general Continental Army Command. He retired as a full general in 1967 and passed away in 1988. ☹



BATTLE POSITIONS AT CHIPYONG-NI

After fighting a division at the battle of Twin Tunnels, the 23rd RCT moved north to secure the main road intersection of Chipyeong-ni. The regiment occupied the town and a perimeter surrounding key terrain in the valley Feb. 3, 1951.

The defense was organized in a tight goose egg around the city with the 2nd Battalion occupying the southern edge (G, F and E Companies); the 3rd Battalion on the right or east side (K, I and A Companies). In the west was the French Battalion with the 1st - 3rd Companies.

The enemy was forced to travel at night to mask evidence of his movements from U.S. aircraft. By Feb. 13, three divisions of the Chinese 40th Army and two of the 42nd Army were identified. Key in the attack on the 2nd Battalion, 23rd RCT was the 344th Division which attacked from the high ground near Hill 397 and the village of Masan.

soil of Highway 24A .

On the morning of the 13th, their hole was situated on the shoulder of the dirt covered road looking up to a pass that would later be labeled “5th Cavalry Pass.” *“We finished the hole around 3 p.m. and had just started to get settled in when the platoon sergeant (Sgt. Smith), came by and told us to move out and up the ridge slightly and dig another hole. We were really cursing him at the time and worked hard to have the second hole finished by dark. Our first hole was then occupied by two other Soldiers.”*

The rest of the platoon dug their positions just over the military crest of the ridge stretching down to the left and tying in with 3rd Platoon at a narrow saddle between two hills. Some of the positions were well dug and deep with overhead cover. Others were only knee deep and fairly exposed.

The B Company Commander (regimental reserve) Capt. Sherman Pratt, had conducted an inspection of each unit defense around the

perimeter. Col. Freeman had instructed his battalions to dig in for a long stay. He wanted all of the positions dug in deep and stockpiles of extra ammunition distributed.



Artwork by Mr. George Gaadt

After Cpt. Pratt returned to the regimental headquarters, he was questioned upon his observations of the defense. *“Well, I think all the positions are relatively well prepared, but I suppose some are better than others.”* When questioned further, he replied, *“If I were to have to replace George or Fox Company now, I would immediately set about to make some improvements...”*

For one thing, I don't like the depth of their dugouts. Many are barely below the surface. If I were lying in some of those, I would feel most insecure and not very well protected. I think troops in such positions might well be routed if they are hit persistently and repeatedly...many of the individual positions are too far forward and exposed and down the hill. It gives the occupant a feeling of remoteness and adds to the insecurity. Other positions are isolated so that men cannot render, mutually supporting fire.”

Pratt was not alone in his assessment, Pfc. Schmalz and some of the others in 1st Platoon were not happy with the position either.

Although it offered good views of the terrain during the daytime, it also exposed them to enemy observation, *“I didn't like the way our positions were laid out on the ridge. We were on the forward slope, and the Chinese could observe everything we did during the day. They were also very good at the use of mortars and machine guns which later killed and wounded several from our platoon. I*

would have preferred to dig in on the back side of the slope and shoot them as they came over the top.”

The G Company defense was strengthened with additional support from other elements in the 23rd RCT. The two line platoons received the 2nd Section of H Company, which had two 57mm recoilless rifles. One of these was placed on the extreme left of the line and had a good shot down the road. The 57mm was a good weapon system and could be used against, tanks, bunkers and troops in the open.

Behind 1st Platoon, down in the area later know as the Ramsburg Bowl, were five 155 mm Howitzers of B Battery, 503rd Field Artillery. Nearby was also the G Company section of 60 mm mortars that were laid in and ready to provide fire support directly in front of the platoon's positions. The fire direction officer from the battery set up his guns well. During the afternoon of the 13th, the battery

fired 300 rounds of high explosive shells onto distant enemy targets.

The early evening of the 13th was quiet as the Soldiers from 1st Platoon sat in their holes. During patrols earlier in the week, they had



gathered up straw matting from the small village of Masan and lined their fighting positions to cut down on the chill. Boxes of ammunition were opened up and grenade canisters distributed. As the sun set, some of the Soldiers remarked that they were almost bored.

The south side of the perimeter settled in for the evening, observation posts were sent out into the terrain in front of the companies,

land line communications were checked and Lt. Heath walked the perimeter talking with the troops before returning to the company command post in a small thatch roofed building in the center of the bowl.

In the hills in front of G Company, the Chinese 115th Division was moving forward towards their attack positions. The 2nd Battalion of the 343rd regiment moved five of its companies to occupy the high ground directly east of the village of Masan (Hill 397).

The night was pitch black . Schmalz stood in his fighting position with Nick Palacero and strained to see the approach of the enemy. At 10:15 p.m., two white flares shot up into the sky to the left and a heavy fire fight was heard as the enemy crashed into the E Company's positions straddling the main railroad line leading into the town.



Left: William C. Scott standing near the top of Schmidt Hill. He was later killed during the battle in hand-to-hand fighting. †

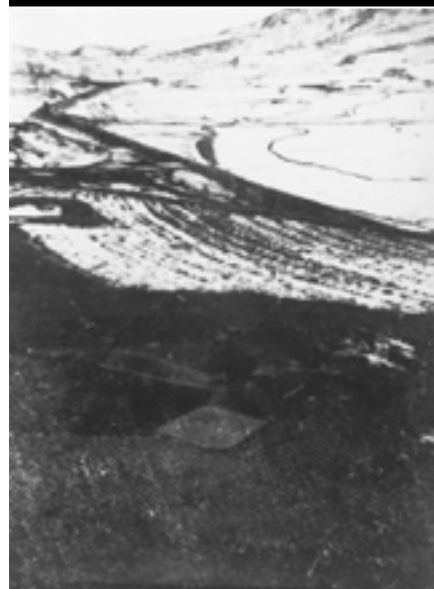
Center: Charles Buttimo fought hard during the battle and was wounded for his fifth time at Chipyeong-ni. After his fifth wound he was automatically discharged from the service and returned to the United States.

Right: William Johnson stood 6ft 4in tall and survived the battle without a scratch. He was later taken prisoner by the Chinese May 18, during the fighting later known as the “May Massacre” Otto Schmalz was later his assistant BAR gunner.

Seated Left: James Carr cleaning his rifle after the battle of 14 February.

Seated Right: It was standard operating procedure in the 23rd RCT that each position was manned by at least two soldiers; one to sleep and the other to pull security. Pvt Carr's battle buddy was Dallas Stepley a 27 year old infantryman from Detroit, Michigan. A few hours after this photo was taken he was killed when a Chinese mortar round landed next to his position. †





Above: View from the 1st Plt. positions on Schmidt Hill looking south along the road leading up to the pass that was later named after the 5th Cavalry who composed the relief force (Task Force Crombez). This is also the area that the Chinese 115th Division moved through into attack positions near Hill 397. Photo by Otto Schmalz.

Five minutes later, a heavy mortar barrage started to land all along the G Company positions. Otto later remembered, *“It was lucky the platoon sergeant had moved us out of our original hole on the road since during the first night’s barrage a mortar round landed directly on top of the position and blew the two guys in it to pieces.”*

Around this time, the observation post in front of G Company came back into the perimeter saying that a large body of troops was moving towards them from Hill 397 and the village of Masan.

At 10:17 p.m., Chinese bugles were heard in the dark and two minutes later, white signal flares shot up from the village. B Battery and the company mortars immediately

fired on Masan and the slopes of Hill 397.

In the darkness, two squads of Chinese Soldiers had crawled up near the 3rd Platoon’s position on the left and threw hand grenades at a machine-gun position manned by Cpl. Eugene L. Ottesen. He immediately responded with several bursts of fire. While the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon were focused on that sector, another two squads used the low ground in the dry creek bed to crawl up near the saddle between 1st and 3rd Platoons.

With a battle cry of “Manzai,” the Chinese assaulted and were cut down a few feet in front of the Americans. The survivors blended back into the night.

Unknown to the Soldiers of G Company, this was only a probing attack to identify where the heavy weapons in the defense were located.

Around 11 p.m. another enemy squad worked its way up close to the center of 3rd Platoon and attacked several of the positions with grenades. It was close fighting and most of the attackers were killed a few feet from the main line.

Peering into the darkness, Otto could see the dark forms of enemy troops crawling across the snow covered rice paddies below his position. They were barely visible in the darkness but every time a flare illuminated the field, they stuck out against the snow.

A .50 caliber machine-gun set up in the road cut directly to his right kept the open ground to Schmalz’s

front clear of attackers.

Around 2 a.m., a large group of Chinese made an attack on the other side of the road against the French positions. Bugles sounded, symbols jangled and the Chinese once again attacked screaming “Manzai.”

The French were some of the bravest fighters in the 23rd RCT. Hearing the attack approaching in the dark, the troopers fixed bayonets and used their own hand-cranked siren to add to the noise. Wearing bright red head scarves, they stood and started to run straight for the Chinese throwing grenades in front and to the sides. When the French were within 20 feet of the Chinese, the attackers turned and fled the battlefield. The French then returned to their positions with several prisoners.

At first light on the 14th, numerous Chinese bodies could be seen lying around the perimeter. Realizing the Chinese had withdrawn to the high-ground and were unlikely to attack during the day, the Soldiers from G Company got out of their holes and started to improve their defenses for the next nights assaults.

It was during the mid-afternoon that Schmalz took the time to walk around and take photos of the company positions (used in this publication).

Chinese bodies lay twisted where they fell, *“Many of them were killed within a few feet of our holes. We would search the bodies for*

documents and anything that could provide intelligence. We also took their weapons in case their buddies tried to come back at night and retrieve them. Most of the Chinese carried a full load of ammunition with them and a muslin sack filled with ten-days worth of rice. They also had a type of rice cracker that we really enjoyed. I ate these crackers through most of the battle.”

During the day, Lt. Heath walked over to the B Battery commander (Capt. Elledge) and discussed a mutual defense of the perimeter in case of a penetration by the Chinese. It was agreed the cannoneers would assist on the line if the need arose.

The 14th was a fairly quiet day around the perimeter as the Chinese were content to sit back in the hills and wait for dark. Later, Air Force transports came in low over Otto’s position and dropped a resupply of ammunition on the small drop zone near town. It would help but couldn’t make up for the amount already expended during the night.

“I didn’t like our position...I thought we were very exposed to enemy observation. During the day we would get out of our holes and withdraw a few feet over the crest

where they couldn’t observe us. I would build a small fire and try to dry out my boots and socks. We used to carry two pairs of socks in our jackets next to our bodies to keep them dry.”

Some of the men received hot chow from the company kitchen and most of the troops hoped the Chinese had withdrawn for good.

Unfortunately, just after dark white signal flares were again seen arching up to the south and bugles could be heard signalling units in the distance.

The Chinese were preparing for major attacks along the entire perimeter. Three fresh divisions and the two cut up divisions from the night before moved into their attack positions.

Enemy officers used guides with illuminated numbers painted on paper stuck to their backs in order to help direct units into position. It was a night without stars and the darkness was an inky black.

At 7 p.m., G Company received extensive mortar and machine-gun fire from the slopes of Hill 397 and Masan.

Thirty minutes later, the enemy attacked with a reinforced company

ABOUT THE PHOTOS

The photos used in this article are some of the only surviving photographs from the battle of Chipyong-ni. Most of the Army photographers lost their equipment during the withdrawal from North Korea.

“I was a camera buff as a civilian. In World War II, I was able to buy a small camera when we liberated Paris. In Korea, I had my sister mail me a small camera that I was able to carry around. After the battle at Chipyong-ni, I sent the film to Tokyo with guys on R&R and had them developed. During the fighting May 18, known as the “May Massacre,” I was fleeing up over a ridge as the Chinese began to overrun our positions. I looked back at the three G Company 2½ ton trucks at the bottom of the valley. We had a supply, mess and baggage truck. My duffle bag was on the third truck with my camera and film. I watched a U.S. Air Force fighter come in a strafe and burn the trucks to keep them out of the hands of the Chinese. I was one of the few men in my company to get away that day. I later picked up another camera when I was on R&R.”
Pfc. Otto Schmalz

Right: M-46 Patton tanks from the 5th Cavalry who broke through to the defenders of Chipyong-ni. These tanks belonged to Task Force Crombez. The Patton Tank was armed with a 90 mm cannon which proved an able opponent of the Soviet built T-34s used by the Chinese. The enemy nicknamed these tanks, “Whispering Death” because of the swishing sound their rounds made as they flew to their target.
Photo by Otto Schmalz.





Discription of Pfc. Otto Schmalz's Photos

Fig. 1 My first hole was in front of the tank parked on the road (A). Nick Pulicano and I dug that hole in frozen mud. Later Sgt. Schmidt came and told us to dig one further up the slope (B). Good thing he did since a mortar round later made a direct hit on the hole and blew the two guys in it to pieces.

Fig. 2 This is the hole that Nick Palacero and I dug on the slope of Schmidt Hill. I got rid of my carbine and picked up a captured Thompson sub-machine gun from a dead Chinese soldier. I couldn't take it back to the states and later sold it to another guy for fifty dollars. The ammo belt in the photo, I donated to the 2nd Infantry Museum.

Fig. 3 A photo of the .30 Calibur machine-gun position that Roland Jenny of Ocomoto Falls, Wis. fought. An X marks the spot where a mortar round landed. This position was a few holes to the left of Pfc. Schmalz.

Fig. 4 View from the saddle looking up the slope towards the 3rd Platoon position on McGee Hill.

Fig. 5 Joe Halbrook and his .57 mm recoilless rifle position on Schmidt Hill. There were two .57 mm guns from the 2nd Section of H Company attached to G Company during the defense. At night the crews replaced their rifles with .50 Calibur Heavy Machine-guns to better engage the Chinese in close fighting. Both Soldiers pictured were wounded during the early morning fighting Feb. 14.

Fig. 6 William Johnson (right) and William C. Scott's (KIA) fighting position.

Fig. 7 One of the platoon Soldiers on the left flank of 1st Plt. The "Saddle" is just behind him. Note how shallow the position he is sitting in has been dug. The Chinese later overwhelmed this position and killed or captured most of the Soldiers fighting here.

Fig. 8 Nick Pulicano in front of our hole with dead Chinese soldiers only feet away.



The Ramsburg Bowl showing the center of the defenses of G Company. The photo was taken from the backside of 3rd Plt. looking toward the company's center. See the corresponding numbers on the terrain sketch above.

1. The "G" Company Command Post.
2. The firing positions of B Battery, 37th Field Artillery.
3. Mess and Supply tents from B Battery.
4. 60 mm mortar positions.
5. Area where F Company (-) and the ranger platoon counter-attacked. The same terrain was later used by "B" Company to attack in the last fight.

directly at the saddle between the 1st and 3rd Platoons. They came forward in human waves shrieking and blowing bugles.

Illumination rounds were fired and lit up the battlefield in an eerie glow as the Soldiers from G Company fired into the mass. None of the enemies who started the attack made it into the positions. They were cut down or fled. However, the enemy attack was successful in masking the movement of a reinforced regiment into its assault positions.

Battalion level attacks were being conducted all around the perimeter for the next several hours. The second main attack occurred along the entire G Company front at 8 p.m., when a Chinese regiment assaulted.

The attack lasted for the remainder of the night with wave after wave of the enemy smashing into the American positions.

Each wave of attackers gained about ten yards of ground before they were shot down, but the waves kept coming closer to the bottoms of Schmidt, McGee and Curtis Hills.

The enemy began to gain ground and engage the American positions one by one. Some of the Chinese used pole charges and crawled up to an American position, placed the charge on top, detonated it and blew the overhead cover down burying the defenders alive. One by one the positions near the saddle were overcome and the men killed or captured.

The 1st Platoon continued to fight as the Chinese started to climb the hill to their front. *“The area in front of my position was very steep and I used to pull the pin out of my grenades and roll them down the hill into the Chinese.”*

As each U.S. position fell silent, Lt. Heath pulled men together from the rear, area for counter-attacks back up to the saddle to re-establish the line.

Finding several men crouching in the rear he told them, *“You’ll die down here anyway...you might as well go up the hill and die there.”* Leading many of the attacks himself, he was at the crest of the saddle when he came face to face with a Chinese soldier who shot him in the chest. His body was then dragged back down the hill to the CP.

Lt. Col. Edwards ordered the reserve platoon, the remainder of the support troops and a Ranger Platoon, to counter attack from the Ramsburg Bowl back up to McGee Hill and the saddle. Each of these attacks were unsuccessful in gaining positions on the high ground.

During the night, Otto and the few men on the right of the platoon continued to fight. Often times, the Chinese were only feet away when they were shot and killed. At dawn, Sgt. Smith realized they were the last ones left on the line. Quietly he collected the eight other remaining men and slid down the back of Schmidt Hill to the new G Company position. It would be another full day of fighting and a counter attack by B Company

before the Americans again gained their old positions.

Pfc. Schmalz remembered, *“We were down to only a few rounds of ammunition left. I pulled back to the company and found I was only one of five men left standing. Nick, William Johnson and I moved back towards the town and dug in. That was the last time I saw Nick, he must have been wounded. That’s the way it was in Korea, one day you were there and the next gone. In the morning the siege was lifted.”*

“I continued to fight with the 2nd Division through the May Massacre (May 18) and Heartbreak Ridge. My five years in the reserves were up after that. I had gone in a few months from a PFC to a SFC and they wanted me to stay and become a warrant officer. With everything I had been through, I declined and went home. That was my experience in Korea.”

Out of the 97 men in George Company at the beginning of the battle, only five were fit for duty at the end. The 23rd RCT had been hit hard but held onto the cross roads of Chipyeong-ni. The Chinese lost over 5,000 killed in the battle. In the 1st Platoon sector alone, over 500 enemy bodies were counted. It was a bloody affair and broke the back of the communist offensive. One of the first major victories for the UN Forces against the Chinese, the battle started a series of advances that ended with the establishment of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and peace two years later.



REFLECTIONS

A photo of downtown Seoul taken from Namsan, shows stark contrast to a photo taken from the same place in 1947..

Graphic by Spc. Daniel Love



Seoul City Council Building



The picture above is taken today of the Seoul City Council Building showing the dramatic growth of the area and the prosperous status of the economy.

Yongsan Army Garrison

The pictures below show the Yongsan Army Garrison in the 1950s and today. Much of the area that was once a parade field and barracks, is now taken by the Korean War Memorial and Museum.



Myeongdong Opera House

The two pictures above contrast the 1950s and today. This area was the scene of heavy street fighting between UN / ROK and Chinese / NK forces during the Korean War. The rubble has now been cleared and the neighborhood is once again prosperous.



New CSM tackles KATUSA issues

Story by Shim, Yung Sik
Katusa Newspaper staff writer

Soldiers anywhere in the Army depend on leaders to manage the Army that is the center of their lives. KATUSAs are no exception, and when issues dealing with them occur, they go to the Republic of Korea Army command sergeant major.

Since Mar. 23, Command Sgt. Maj. Seo, Young-taek has been assigned as the new command sergeant major of ROKA Support Group. The mission of the ROKA Support Group command sergeant major is the supervision of all ROKA noncommissioned officers and KATUSAs working in U.S. bases stationed on the Korean Peninsula. He also acts as an adviser of ROKA Support Group commander. On top of those tasks, he manages KATUSAs' military education, discipline and welfare.



"The task I have received is very important," said Seo. "I must use the knowledge and experience from my years in the Army to improve standards of Army and KATUSA programs. Also, I will try my best to make my Soldiers go back to their families at peak mental and physical condition."

Although he thinks it is good for KATUSAs to have benefits like personal time and improvement of English skills by working with U.S. counterparts, he said he feels concerned about the possibility that they might forget their identity and violate the Army regulations.

He would like to lead KATUSAs to prevent accidents by giving morale training constantly and punishing those who violate regulations.

Seo said that he can see the changes in a person's life that come with being in the Army, as well as changes in himself. *"By spending 23 years in the army, my life became very methodical. I have stayed physically and mentally healthy. Also, it has given me a chance to learn English,"* said Seo.

"I would like for Soldiers to do several things," said Seo. "The most important thing we can do is realize the mission is always top priority. When we forget things have to be done, that situation can be directed to an incident or can cause an accident.

Soldiers are the defenders of their country, so I want all Soldiers to be proud, no matter where they work.

Third, consider the time you have on and off duty valuable. Right now, this moment is important that you need to be faithful to today.

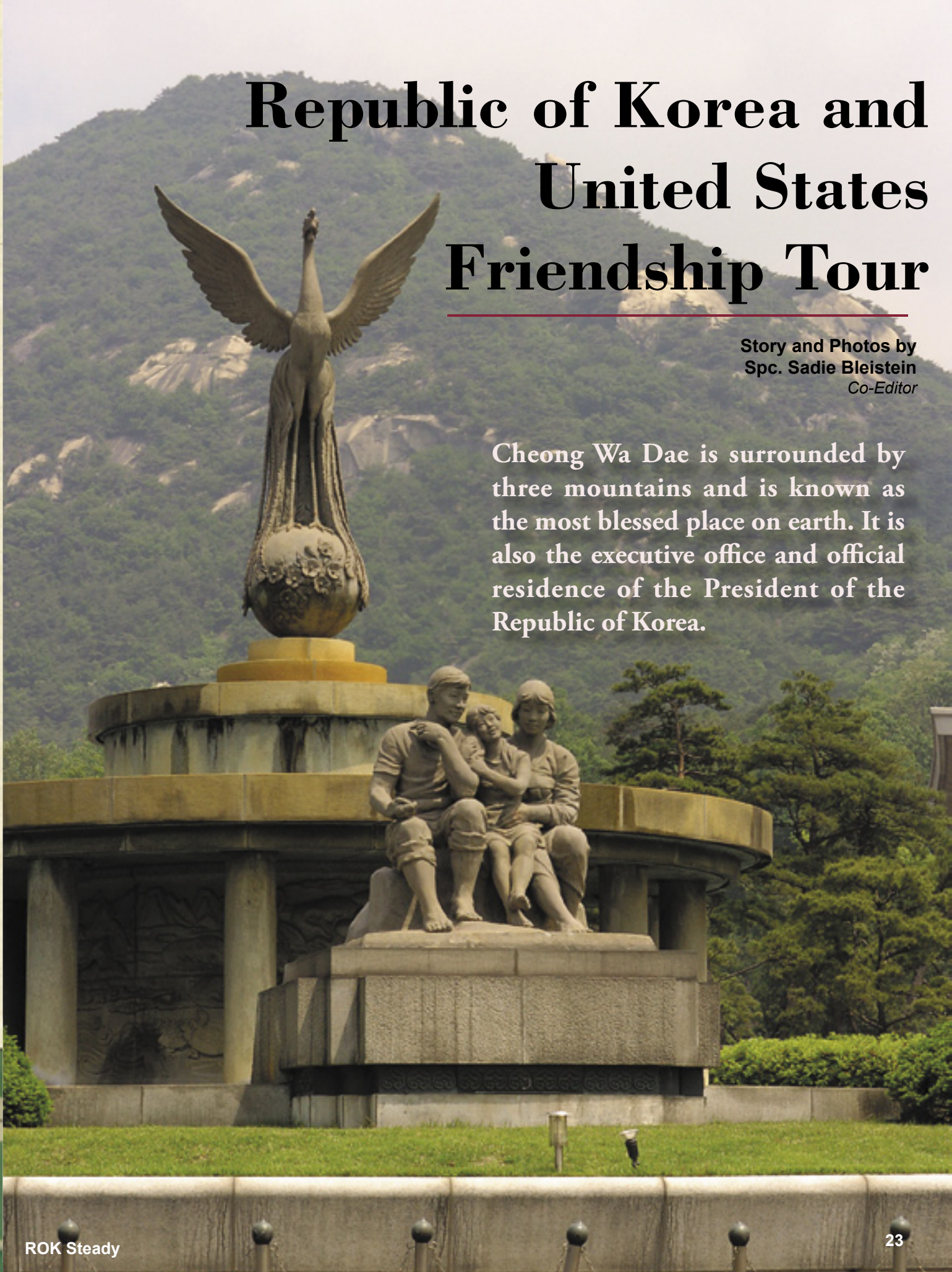
Fourth, be prepared by staying in strong physical condition. In the future, you can accomplish any task as long as you are prepared for it. You will need a strong mind to make it happen as well. Finally, I hope Soldiers have a dream. Plan a farseeing scheme and implement it with imagining yourself in the future. *"Whatever you do, I hope you do your best and make optimal use of the time you have."*



Republic of Korea and United States Friendship Tour

Story and Photos by
Spc. Sadie Bleistein
Co-Editor

Cheong Wa Dae is surrounded by three mountains and is known as the most blessed place on earth. It is also the executive office and official residence of the President of the Republic of Korea.





Twice a year, the Ministry of National Defense sponsors four Republic of Korea and United States Friendship Tours free of charge to U.S. military personnel.

The one-day cultural orientation tours are designed to introduce servicemembers to Korean history, customs and traditions. The tour enhances ROK and U.S. relations and supports the Good Neighbor Program.

The one-day tour involves various sights in the Seoul area and a visit to a Korean Folk Village in Yong In.

The first stop of the tour is the Changdeokgung (Palace) which is known for its secret garden. Changdeokgung features traditional Korean garden landscaping and 28 traditional buildings.

Next on the tour is a drive thru Cheong Wa Dae, the executive office and official residence of the President of the Republic of Korea.

A free lunch is provided and the tour then takes you for a walk through a Korean Folk Village in Yong In.

The Korea War Memorial is the last sight of the tour before the free dinner.

For more information on upcoming cultural orientation events, contact your public affairs office.



Clockwise:
A man in the Korean Folk Village makes traditional straw baskets and other items by hand.
The Korea War Memorial offers eight different war exhibits for you to visit. Exhibits are indoors and outdoors.
Participants of the Republic of Korea and United States Friendship Tour entered into the Secret Garden of the Changdeokgung (Palace).
Entertainment was also provided during the Korean Folk Village Tour. Dancers and percussionist danced around in an arena.

“Our two countries have been friends for over a century”

Lee, Dong Nam, director general, troop information for MND



ROK Steady



June 2005

KATUSA-American Friendship Week

Story and photos by PFC Lee, Jung-woo
and PFC Shim, Yung-sik
KATUSA Newspaper Staff

U.S. Army installations across the peninsula held the 29th KATUSA and U.S. Soldier Friendship Week, May 24 - 27.

During the week, KATUSAs and the U.S. Soldiers had an opportunity to overcome racial and cultural differences, and share the time to understand and cooperate with each other. The event has been held between mid-April and mid-May since 1977. Friendship week offers a chance to collaborate and measure each other's capability by sweating together through games such as; basketball, soccer and other sporting events.

There was an opening ceremony May 24 at Lombardo Field in the southern part of Yongsan Garrison. KATUSAs and U.S. Soldiers from all corps and related personnel were there to celebrate the ceremony.

"We cordially thank you all for being here, even though you're pretty busy," said Col. Kim, Duk-gon, ROKA support group commander. "I know that KATUSAs and U.S. Soldiers are core parts of the united forces in place to deter our enemies. That's why I want you Soldiers to have great time in this event. I also hope all KATUSAs and U.S. Soldiers can enjoy this and have time to think about the importance of each other. I also hope all Soldiers can tighten their friendship through this to enhance our com-

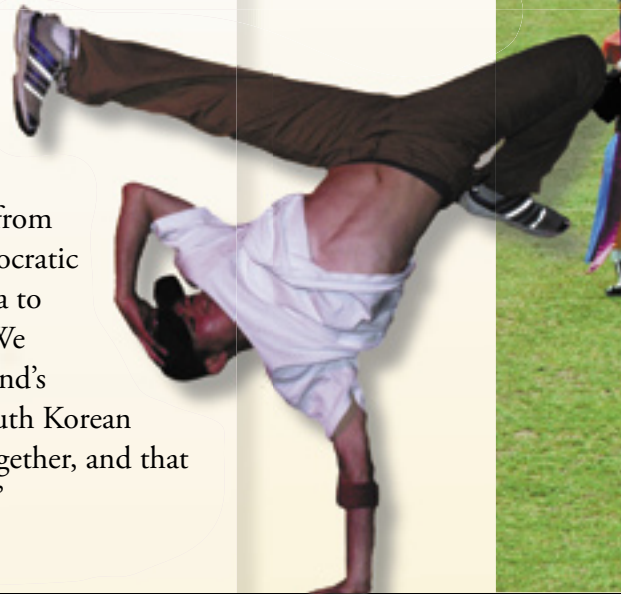
bined forces. Know, the place you are living is fortified by the blood of our friends' forefathers.

"They dedicated their lives to save our country from the ambition of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea to communize our nation. We should not forget our friend's brave deeds. U.S. and South Korean forces fought and died together, and that makes us blood brothers."

On the second day of friendship week, there were traditional Korean games like SsiRum and a tug of war. Some of the games were used by the ROKA support group to introduce Korean culture to the U.S. Soldiers.

Participating in Korean games is not the only way Korean culture was introduced to the U.S. Soldiers. There were also festivals at Lombardo Field, where stands taught the U.S. Soldiers about Korean culture; including officers clothing, making your own Kimchi and sampling Korean tea and an eatery.

Spc. James Partch from 38th Medical Detachment said he especially had a great time with these opportunities to experience Korean traditions in person. "I really like Kimchi. I'm so happy to get the chance to make my own Kimchi and enjoy the good taste of it."




TRADITION

SPORTS

LEARNING

FUN



A close-up, low-angle shot of a traditional Korean temple roof. The roof is made of dark, layered tiles, and a thick stream of rain is falling from the edge, creating multiple vertical lines of water. The roof's eaves are decorated with ornate, carved wooden brackets featuring floral and geometric patterns. The background is a dense, out-of-focus forest of green trees, with some rain visible as fine lines falling across the entire scene.

Rain pours from the top of a temple roof on the outskirts of Gwangju.

Photo by Spc Daniel Love